



Rt Hon Robert Halfon MP
Chair, Education Select Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10 September 2020

Dear Robert,

I am writing to you in response to comments in TES yesterday calling for us to confirm exactly how many students have entered for autumn exams and how many students are appealing.

Schools and colleges have until September 17 to submit appeals for GCSEs, AS and A levels. The indications are that volumes are not high and are manageable for exam boards. The closing dates for AS and A level entries has passed, although the exam boards are accommodating late entries. The GCSE entry deadline is 18 September with the later deadline of 4 October for English language and maths. We are anticipating low numbers in most subjects.

I am afraid that we cannot provide more precise information on the number of appeals or the number of entries at present because our hands are tied. The data are classed as Official Statistics. There are requirements set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics with which we must comply, and they prevent us from being more specific now.

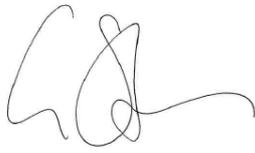
The exam boards will provide us with their final data on appeals for summer 2020 in the third week of November when the appeals process will be reasonably complete; we plan to publish the statistics as soon as they are ready, in December 2020.

We plan to publish Autumn entry figures in a similar way, as Official Statistics as soon as possible, in October 2020.

Meanwhile, I can confirm that we are in regular contact with the exam boards about the numbers of appeals they are receiving and their progress in dealing with those. We are assured that exam boards are doing all they can to process these as quickly as possible. And we are discussing with

exam boards and with the department, contingency arrangements for the Autumn series.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G Stacey', written in a cursive style.

Dame Glenys Stacey
Acting Chief Regulator